

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-11 NIC-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

DRC-01 EURE-00 IO-14 /157 W  
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P R 251459Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1041

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T BUDAPEST 0702

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, HU, YO, UR, GW

SUBJ: SOVIET INTENTIONS TOWARDS YUGOSLAVIA

REF: A. STATE 57167; B) BELGRADE 1336; C) MUNICH 471

1. WE HAVE NOT SEEN DIE WELT MARCH 18 ARTICLE AND ALL WE KNOW ABOUT FRANKFURTER ALLEGEMEINE ZEITUNG IS WHAT WE HAVE GARNERED FROM REF C. HOWEVER, WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY BELGRADE (REF B) THAT EVIDENCE DISCOUNTS RAZUMOVSKY CLAIM THAT CANCELLATION TITO VISIT TO BUDAPEST LINKED TO HUNGARIAN MILITARY MANEUVERS. TITO VISIT CANCELLATION WAS LONG BEFORE MANEUVERS WERE HELD. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE HERE THAT SOVIETS

INVOLVED IN MILITARY MANEUVERS MARCH 3-9, WHICH WERE NOT NEAR YUGOSLAV BORDER BUT IN CENTRAL WESTERN HUNGARY; MANEUVERS HERE WERE PURELY HUNGARIAN AFFAIR AND TITO IS HARDLY WORRIED ABOUT HUNGARIANS BY THEMSELVES. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WISE FOR RFE NOT TO IMPUGN ITS CREDIBILITY BY DEALING WITH SUCH UNFOUNDED SPECULATION RE PURPOSE HUNGARIAN MANEUVERS.

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2. WE ARE NOT QUITE SURE HOW MUCH DEPT HAS IN MIND IN COMMENTING ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOVIET-HUNGARIAN MILITARY COOPERATION (PARA 4 REFTEL A). MARSHAL GRECHKO'S VISIT AT CHRISTMAS TIME WAS CLEARLY UNUSUAL AND WAS RECEIVED WITH SOME COOLNESS HERE. THE VERY NATURE OF HIS ARRIVAL AND HUNGARY'S UNPREPAREDNESS FOR IT INDICATES SOMETHING SPECIAL WAS ON SOVIET MINDS. RECENTLY THERE HAVE BEEN MORE EXTENSIVE THAN USUAL HUNGARIAN MANEUVERS, WITH BROAD PARTICIPATION OF RESERVISTS (BUT NOT OF USSR), AND THERE ARE OTHER INDICATIONS OF GOH EFFORTS TO IMPROVE HUNGARIAN MILITARY EFFICIENCY. SOVIET FORCES ARE ALSO STEADILY BEING EQUIPPED WITH SOME OF THE USSR'S LATEST WEAPONS. BUDAPEST WAS, OF COURSE, A KEY TRANSIT SITE FOR THE ME AIRLIFT LAST FALL. AND THE NEW SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE HERE SEEMS TO BE UNUSUALLY WELL EXPERIENCED (IN CUBA, EGYPT AND IRAQ IN PARTICULAR). OTHER THAN THESE ELEMENTS WE HAVE NO SPECIFICS ON INCREASED COOPERATION, THOUGH SUCH AN INCREASE MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED AFTER THE GRECHKO VISIT.

3. AT SAME TIME ALL THE RUMORS OF SOVIET REINFORCEMENTS OR HEIGHTENED ACTIVITIES HERE HAVE SO FAR PROVEN GROUND-LESS (AS DEPTEL SAYS), AT THE COST OF SOME PRETTY HIGH VISIBILITY OF OUR MILITARY ATTACHES. CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE SOVIET PREPARATIONS TO APPLY MILITARY PRESSURES ON YUGOSLAVIA IN CASE OF TITO'S DEATH IS A REAL ONE, AND WE WILL REMAIN ALERT TO ANY INDICATIONS WE CAN FIND. IT IS ALSO A REAL CONCERN THAT WITH HUNGARY OUT OF MBFR THE SOVIETS MIGHT PRE-POSITION EXTRA FORCES HERE IN ADVANCE OF CONSTRAINTS. IN SPITE OF ALL THE RUMORS THAT SUCH STEPS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY, ACTIVELY PUSHED BY THE CHINESE AND ABETTED BY THE ALBANIANS, DEPT, PENTAGON AND WE HAVE CONTINUED TO AGREE THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE THIS, IN PARTICULAR NO EVIDENCE OF EITHER A SOVIET PARATROOP REGIMENT OR A FIFTH SOVIET DIVISION. ON THIS POINT OUR ALLIES SEEM TO KEEP BITING ON THE SAME CHINESE FORTUNE COOKIE. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE SUCH RUMORS WHEREVER NECESSARY BUT WOULD HOPE THAT WHERE THE RUMORS COME THROUGH OUR ALLIES (AS MANY HAVE), THEY WILL BE ASKED TO MAKE THEIR OWN  
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ON-THE-SPOT CHECKS. OTHER THAN UK, OTHER MILITARY ATTACHES HERE OR ACCREDITED TO HUNGARY RESIDENT AT ANOTHER CAPITAL, SHY AWAY FROM DOING THE NECESSARY ON-THE-GROUND OBSERVATION.

4. THERE MAY, OF COURSE, BE SOME INCREASES OR CHANGES IN SOVIET-HUNGARIAN MILITARY COOPERATION OTHER THAN THOSE IN PARA 2 THAT WE DO NOT KNOW ABOUT OR HAVE NOT

CONCENTRATED ON. IF SO, AND DEPT CAN GIVE US SPECIFICS,  
WE WOULD BE GLAD TO MAKE CHECKS OR TO PRORIVIDE COMMENTS.  
PEDERSEN

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NNN

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